

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 EPA-01 DOTE-00
NASA-01 NSF-01 /123 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6998

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG FR

SUBJ: COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE SOLAIRE

REF: PARIS 2537

1. THE FEB 22 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING DECIDED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE SOLAIRE," SOLAR ENERGY COMMISSION. THIS IDEA WAS FIRST MADE PUBLIC ON JAN 26 DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD IN LE MONDE, AS REPORTED REFTEL.

2. THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ELABORATING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLAR ENERGY POLICY, CARRYING OUT RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD, OR DELEGATING IT TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. ITS AS YET UNNAMED PRESIDENT WILL LEAD AN ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF 13 MEMBERS WHICH WILL HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRINCIPAL EFFORTS IN THIS

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FIELD NOW BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR. IT IS TO BE ASSISTED BY A SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD.

3. FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD POINTED OUT IN ANNOUNCING THE CREATION OF THE NEW AGENCY THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY CONSTITUTES A PRINCIPAL LONG

TERM PRIORITY IN ENERGY PLANNING SINCE THAT FORM OF ENERGY HAS THREE ADVANTAGES: IT ALLOWS FRANCE TO REDUCE HER ENERGY DEPENDENCE. THIS FORM OF ENERGY IS NON-POLLUTING AND THUS ITS USE IS PART OF FRANCE'S POLICY OF GREATER RESPECT FOR NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT. AND IT OPENS NEW PROSPECTIVES FOR FRENCH INDUSTRY IN AN AREA WHERE INTERESTING EXPORT POSSIBILITIES ARE PRESENT.

4. THE NEW AGENCY'S NAME - NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE FRENCH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE) - CONVEYS AN IMPRESSION THAT SOLAR ENERGY IS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH ATOMIC. GIVEN THE CONTROVERSY AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY, IT MAKES VERY GOOD ELECTORAL SENSE TO PUT SOLAR OUT FRONT, EVEN IF MOST RATIONAL PARAMETERS WOULD SHOW THAT IT IS FAR BEHIND NUCLEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MOVE GOES WELL BEYOND NEXT MONTH'S ELECTIONS.
HARTMAN

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